

to be like if we live in an America where the Federal Government gets \$9 of every \$10 that we earn?

Mr. Speaker, we are not making this up. This was a bipartisan commission that came to this realization. And every day that we wait, every day that we delay, every day that we steal money from our children's pockets to pay off political promises that we have made to the hacks and cronies that lobby us day in and day out is an opportunity lost. And as this country slouches toward the 21st century, as we slouch toward an economic Armageddon that will crush our children's opportunity to have the same shots at the American dream that we had, we miss an opportunity, and we betray those very children that people that get up behind these podiums claim to be so interested in.

Mr. Speaker, I really do not know how to explain it to my children. I do not know how to explain it to friends' children. I do not know how we are going to do it 30 years from now. They are going to ask us: What did you do when you had an opportunity to actually save America? How did you vote? Did you get on the floor? Did you speak against the travesty when the press was ignoring it? When the politicians were afraid to come close to it, what were you doing? And I will have to tell them that, while some of us actually cared enough to stick our necks out on the line and try to make a difference, there are others that simply lacked the moral conviction and the courage and the discipline to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I have got to admit right now that I am somewhat ashamed to be associated with some Members of the U.S. Congress, and it greatly pains me to say that. I have only been up here for a few years. I was a middle-class father of two sitting on the couch back in 1994 when I decided I wanted to get off the couch, I wanted to come to Washington and I wanted to make a difference. Nobody knew who I was. I had never run for political office before. I did not come from a wealthy family. I did not have anybody that would bankroll my campaign. I just had ideas. I wanted to contribute to this country. I wanted to save my children from the future that they appeared to be facing because politicians were stealing money from their pockets and from their generation's pockets to pay off their political friends.

So I got involved, and it was not until I got up to Washington that I understood part of the problem. I understood that not only were there politicians that were opposed to the Federal Government living by the same rules that the middle class, where you only spend as much money as you take in, but that there were actually people in this Chamber who would make one promise while they were campaigning for office and then, when they got to Washington, DC, would do what we call the bait and switch, which for the rest

of America is illegal. For the rest of America, if an advertiser does a bait and switch, they get sent to jail.

But in Congress I guess that is OK because there is a Senator back in 1994, who in November 1994 promised that if she got to Washington, DC, again, if she was reelected again, that she would support the balanced budget amendment. Well, she got elected in November 1994, and 6 weeks later she came to Washington, DC.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Would the gentleman suspend? The Chair must remind the Member that he is to refrain from references to Members of the other body and to direct his remarks to the Speaker.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I was not making references to any specific Member, and I might use this not to address this Speaker, but I must suggest that I am offended by the continued double standard that appears to be occurring in this Chamber where just 2 hours ago a Republican Member was mentioned by name several times and the Speaker did absolutely nothing—not this Speaker, but another Speaker did absolutely nothing when this speaker was mentioned by name several times. And yet when I mention by reference another Member, then all of a sudden I am called down.

I have seen this occur for 3 years, and I am getting a little tired of it—not from you, sir, but from other people in this Chamber.

The fact of the matter is that another Member's name was mentioned repeatedly by a Democrat. I did not hear a Parliamentarian say anything about it, and I counted seven times while watching on TV. I finally had to call the cloakroom to get something done.

I come here today, and I mentioned somebody in the abstract; nobody would even be able to identify this Member that I brought up. And yet my words are called into question. I am not questioning my colleague. I am just questioning what has been occurring for the past 3 years.

I ask for a little fairness and a little evenhandedness. I will refrain from any more specifics.

But I will say that there have been several Members that have made promises on the campaign trail, have promised their people, looking into their eyes: I will support the balanced budget amendment. And then they get elected, and they break their word, they break their oath, and it has happened up here over the past few years time and time and time again.

Mr. Speaker, I really do not care whether they are Republicans or Democrats, conservatives or liberals, Senators or Congressmen. All I care about is the impact that these broken promises are going to have on my two boys and on the next generation.

I ask the question, is there any shame left in America when people can just talk out of both sides of their mouth, knowing that the end result will be a future economic calamity for America and for America's children? Regretfully, I have got to say that time and time again we have seen it happening, and it has got to stop.

There is a letter that was written to Members of Congress and was written by the Secretary of Agriculture. He wrote in this letter to Members of Congress: "A balanced budget amendment would in all likelihood set up a fierce struggle for limited Federal resources."

Now let us just examine the words limited Federal resources. Do you know how limited the Federal Government's resources are? Does anybody know how much money we give the Federal Government every year? It is \$1.7 trillion, and where does that money come from? Well, it comes from middle-class Americans who are now spending 50.2 percent of their work year to pay off taxes, fees, and regulations put on them by the Government. It also comes from businesses, from corporations, from people that are creating jobs. Unfortunately, we take it from the dead, we take it from the productive members of society who actually make a profit and create jobs. But in the end, most regretfully, we take it from our children and our grandchildren, and we steal not only from the living but from the unborn, from future generations.

There is nothing limited about the Federal resources that we have, nothing limited at all as we continue to pay farmers not to plant their crops, as we continue in America to pay people not to work, as we continue to shovel corporate welfare across this Nation and across the globe, as we continue to pay for foreign aid.

Just a couple of days ago, weeks ago, decided that we wanted to get involved in family planning and funding abortions across the globe. Do not tell me that our resources are limited. Our resources are not limited. It is our discipline that is limited.

We do not face a deficiency in the wallet, as George Bush said. He had it backward. We face a deficiency of will. We face a deficiency of discipline. We face a deficiency of honor. And if we do not get a handle on this financial crisis that is robbing from my boys and your children and your grandchildren and future generations, they are the ones who are going to have to pay and they are the ones that are going to ask you 30 years from now: What did you do about it? What difference did you make? And you can make a difference; every Member in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, can make a difference. But they are going to have to have a little discipline, they are going to have to be a little less selfish.

I asked for leadership from the President of the United States. In 1994 the President opposed our efforts to balance the budget. In 1995 we put the first

plan in a generation on this floor and passed it to balance the budget for the first time in a generation.

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We had a plan to balance the budget in 5 years and to start paying back future generations from the money we had already stolen from them. Yet it was vetoed. We were called mean-spirited. We had a President who said that he wanted to balance the budget, and yet he opposed the balanced budget amendment. Today we have a President who says he wants to balance the budget, and yet he opposes the balanced budget amendment.

We have a President who says he wants to cut the deficit, and yet we have a President who presented a plan that allows the deficit to go up for 3 more years. Yes, we have a President who says he wants to erase the deficit and make that his top priority. Yet the budget he submitted just this month allows the deficit to go up an additional \$40 billion to \$50 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it has taken a lot more than a Democratic President and a Democratic Party and ruinous policies by the liberal Democrats over the past 40 years of controlling this Congress to destroy our children's future. They had to have help. All too often some members of the Republican party were all too willing to help.

I am here to say I do not care whose fault it was in the past. I do not care whose fault it is today. I am saying it is time for people on both sides of the aisle to put their children and grandchildren and future generations' children and grandchildren first, and stop worrying about paying off their political buddies, stop worrying about the good old system that has allowed us to accumulate a \$5.6 trillion debt, and start worrying about their interests first.

This past week we had a vote that I must admit caused me great concern. It seems that the Secretary of the Treasury may have made a \$3 billion miscalculation. That is what at least our leadership told us. They told us that the trust fund was broke because the Secretary of the Treasury made a \$3 billion mistake.

Do Members know what? An interesting thing happened. This time when a \$3 billion mistake was made, for the first time since I have been here over the past couple of years, we had a choice to make. The choice was do we take the money away from the government to pay for this \$3 billion error, or do we take the money out of the American people's pockets?

Unfortunately, we chose to take the money out of the American people's pocket. I voted against it. I think 78 other people voted against it. I can understand some of the leaders' concerns. I can understand that they were promised to have offsets in the future. I can understand their frustration in trying to deal with an administration that says one thing one second and changes

the next time, and trying to pin them down.

But I have to tell the Members what I do not understand. I do not understand why anybody in this leadership would decide that they would take money out of the pockets of the American people because of a mistake that the administration made. That is wrong. It goes against what the Republicans stand for. More to the point, it goes against what America stands for. We have got to start showing a little bit of discipline.

Mr. Speaker, I got attacked in my local newspaper. They said that the Congressman voted against a bill that would have brought \$4 million to his district, to airports that needed the money. That is great. I am not saying that airports do not need the money. I am not saying that my district is not any more deserving of these funds than anybody else. But what I am asking, Mr. Speaker, is whose money is it we are spending?

We have gone beyond just spending the American people's money. We are spending the next generation's money. They are not able to hold us accountable. Until they are able to hold us accountable, until they are of age to vote, I think we have a responsibility to them to preserve for them the American dream that all of us were promised; promised an opportunity by our Founding Fathers, by Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, by these great Founders that believed in America, that the individual had the right, had the opportunity, to pursue the American dream.

That is what my parents taught me. They taught me: Work hard, obey the law, respect authority, I know that is radical these days: Respect authority, and you may have an opportunity to do something with your life. That is what I am trying to pass on to my children.

It is not always easy. My father was laid off for a year, 1½ years, and I remember driving around the southeast as he was looking for gainful employment somewhere where he could support a family of five. It was during a tough recession. It was during the energy crisis in the early 1970's.

But I do not ever remember him being resentful. I don't remember him teaching me: You cannot succeed, it is somebody else's fault. What we need, Joe, is more money from the Federal Government. That is why I am out of a job, it is the Federal Government's fault. Or it is the guy's fault down the street, who is more successful than we are. Resent him. Resent his big house. Resent his nice car. It is not our fault, it is their fault.

That is the ethic we are teaching our children. That is the ethic we are teaching America. It is an ethic that will lead to our destruction. We have got to elect leaders who really do not care whether they get reelected or not. They only care whether their children have the same shot at the American dream that they had. For 35 years we

have run up deficits, taken it out of our children's pockets, and basically thrown caution to the wind.

I am telling the Members it is time to stop saying live and let live, eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you may die, because tomorrow has come. It has come for our children.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that in the coming year the adults in this Chamber will begin behaving like adults and will look at their children and grandchildren when they go home on the weekends, and when they are going across the districts holding town meetings they will look into the eyes of those members of the next generation that are going to run this country, and say, yes, I care enough to make a few tough votes that may hurt in the short run, but in the long run, will help us all achieve the American dream.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. COLLINS]. The Chair will announce, for the benefit of the body, that clause 1 of rule XIV clearly distinguishes between references in debate to other Members of the House, which are in order if not engaging in personality, and improper references to Members of the Senate, which are not in order as a matter of comity between the houses even though not personally offensive, and must be enforced on the Chair's initiative under that rule.

The Chair believes prior occupants of the Chair have consistently applied this rule.

Does the gentleman have a motion?

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. No, Mr. Speaker, I actually have a question.

Could the Chair read the first part of that again, regarding references to other Members by name?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Clause 1 of rule XIV clearly distinguishes between references in debate to other Members of the House, which are in order if not engaging in personality.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. If a statement was made of another Member and used this other Member's name, and made disparaging remarks regarding his views on rape, on murder, on incest, and on other matters, would that fall under that section as a disparaging remark?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has clearly stated the rule twice.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the Chair has also stated, though, that it has applied it evenhandedly over the past several years. I can tell you just 3 hours ago that rule was not applied evenhandedly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will again remind the Member he has read the rule twice, that there is no prohibition against announcing another Member's name and policies as long as it is not personally offensive to that person, to that Member.